

STATE OF ILLINOIS
95th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGULAR SESSION
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175th Legislative Day

11/13/2008

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The regular Session of the 95th General Assembly will please come to order. Will the Members please be at their desks? Will the guests in the galleries please rise? The invocation today will be given by Dr. Maryam Mostoufi, Islamic Society of Greater Springfield Center, Springfield, Illinois.

DR. MARYAM MOSTOUFI:

(Prayer by Dr. Maryam Mostoufi)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Please remain standing for the Pledge of Allegiance. Senator Maloney.

SENATOR MALONEY:

(Pledge of Allegiance, led by Senator Maloney)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Madam Secretary, Reading and Approval of the Journal.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senate Journal of November 12th, 2008.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hunter.

SENATOR HUNTER:

Madam President, I move that the Journal just read by the Secretary be approved, unless some Senators has additions or corrections to offer.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hunter moves to approve the Journals just read by the Secretary. There being no objection, so ordered. Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senate Resolution 290 -- I'm sorry, Senate Resolution 920,

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offered by Senator Demuzio and all Members.

Senate Resolution 921, offered by Senator Dillard and all Members.

And Senate Resolution 922, offered by Senator Wilhelmi and all Members.

They're all death resolutions, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Consent Calendar. Madam Secretary, Messages.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I have a Message from the House by Mr. Mahoney, Clerk.

Mr. President - I am directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has adopted the following joint resolution, in the adoption of which I am instructed to ask the concurrence of the Senate, to wit:

House Joint Resolution 88.

Adopted by the House, May 28th, 2008. Mark Mahoney, Clerk of the House. It is offered by Senator Sullivan and it is substantive, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senator Garrett, Chairperson of the Committee on Public Health, reports Motions to Concur with House Amendments 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 2492 and House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2860 recommend Do Adopt.

Senator Crotty, Chairperson of the Committee on Local Government, reports a Motion -- Motions to Concur on House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1290, House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2031, House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2536,

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House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2743 recommend Do Adopt.

Senator Wilhelmi, Chairperson of the Committee on Judiciary-Criminal Law, reports Senate Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 427, and Motions to Concur with House Amendment No. 4 to Senate Bill 450 and House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2275 recommend Do Adopt.

Senator Demuzio, Chairperson of the Committee on State Government and Veterans Affairs, reports a Motion to Concur with House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1890 recommend Do Adopt.

Senator Meeks, Chairperson of the Committee on Human Services, reports a Motion to Concur with House Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 1415 recommend Do Adopt.

Senator Harmon, Chairperson -- Chairperson of the Committee on Revenue, reports a Motion to Concur with House Amendments 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 2015 recommend Do Adopt.

And Senator Lightford, Chairperson of the Committee on Education, reports a Motion to Concur with House Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 2688 recommend Do Adopt.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Madam Secretary, Introduction of Bills.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senate Bill -- Senate Bill 3075, offered by Senator Demuzio.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

1st Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

WICS-TV requests leave to videotape. No objection, leave is granted. If I could have everybody's attention, Senator Bivins is here. He wants to introduce some guests. So if we

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can please be quiet. Senator Bivins.

SENATOR BIVINS:

Thank you, Madam President, Members. I'd like to introduce to you a team, fastpitch softball team, elementary {sic} school from Challand, Sterling, Illinois, who, this past summer, participated in the Little League World Series. They defeated New Jersey and they defeated the Philippines, they defeated Puerto Rico, and ended up taking third place in the Little League World Series. And so I'd like to introduce this team to you and congratulate them. And have Jennifer Rahn who wanted to say a couple words.

JENNIFER RAHN:

(Remarks and Introductions by Jennifer Rahn)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Frerichs, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR FRERICHS:

For a point of personal privilege, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

State your point.

SENATOR FRERICHS:

I -- today I have a Page for the Day. Her name is Ella Grace. She's sleeping on the job right now, but she's sleeping pretty soundly. And I think she'd appreciate it if people of the Senate would welcome her to the Illinois State Senate.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

She's absolutely gorgeous, Senator. Welcome.

SENATOR FRERICHS:

Did I hold her up high enough to be on...?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

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Ella.

SENATOR FRERICHS:

This will be her first time on the Internet here.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Congratulations to both you and Laura. We got to let Laura have some of the credit here. The AP requests leave to take photographs of the proceedings. Seeing no objection, leave is granted. WAND-TV seeks leave to videotape the proceedings. Seeing no objection, leave is granted. To fulfill... Can I get everybody's attention, please? We are going to be going to executive appointments. Senator Hendon. To -- to fulfill our responsibilities under Article V, Section 9 of the Constitution, we will now proceed to the Order of Advise and Consent. Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank you, Madam President, also known as Congresswoman Halvorson. I move that the Senate resolve itself into Executive Session for the purpose of acting on the appointments set forth in the Messages of the Governor dated May 15th and November 5th, 2008, and the Message from the Attorney General dated May 23rd, 2008.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon moves that the Senate resolve itself into Executive Session for the purpose of acting on the appointments set forth in the Messages from the Governor dated May 15th and November 5th, 2008, and the Messages from the Attorney General dated May 23rd, 2008. Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senator Hendon, Chairman of the Committee on Executive

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Appointments, to which was referred the Governor's Message of November 5th, 2008, reported the same back with the recommendation that the Senate do advise and consent to the following appointments.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Madam President, with respect to the Governor's -- Message of November 5th, 2008, I will read the salaried appointments of which the Committee on Executive Appointments recommends that the Senate do advise and consent:

To be the Director of the Department of Agriculture, for a term commencing October 8th, 2008, and ending January 19th, 2009: Thomas Jennings.

To be the Director of the Department of Central Management Services, for a term commencing August 21st -- 25th, 2008, and ending January 19th, 2009: James Sledge.

To be the Assistant Director of the Department of Central Management Services, for a term commencing June 30th, 2008, and ending January 19th, 2009: Matthew Beaudet.

To be a member of the Chicago Transit Authority Board of Trustees, for a term commencing September 24th, 2008, and ending September 1st, 2014: Sheila Nix.

To be the Director of the Department of Employment and {sic} Security, for a term commencing August 25th, 2008, and ending January 19th, 2009: Maureen O'Donnell.

To be members of the Executive Ethics Commission, for terms commencing November 5th, 2008, and ending June 30th, 2011: Randal Thomas and Stephen Thurston.

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To be the Director of the Department of Juvenile Justice, for a term commencing September 24th, 2008, and ending January 19, 2009: Kurt Friedenauer.

To be the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Human Services, for a term commencing October 6, 2008, and ending January 19, 2009: Jerome Butler.

To be a member of the Labor Relations Board, State Panel, for a term commencing November 5th, 2008, and ending January 26, 2009, and for a term commencing January 27, 2009, and ending January 28th, 2013: Albert Washington.

To be members of the Liquor Control Commission, for terms commencing September 1st, 2008, and ending February 1st, 2012: Sam Esteban and Michael McMahon.

To be a member of the Pollution Control Board, for a term commencing December 1st, 2008, and ending July 1st, 2011: Gary Blankenship.

To be a member of the Pollution Control Board, for a term commencing November 3rd, 2008, and ending July 1st, 2009: Shundar Lin.

To be a member of the Prisoner Review Board, for a term commencing January 20th, 2009, and ending January 19th, 2015.

To be a member of the Property Tax Appeal Board, for... Geraldine Tyler.

To be a member of the Property Tax Appeal Board, for a term commencing December 1st, 2008, and ending January 31st, 2013: Mauro Glorioso.

To be a member of the Workers' Compensation Commission, for a term commencing January 20th, 2009, and ending January 21st, 2013: Yolaine Dauphin.

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To...

Madam President, having read the salaried appointments from the Governor's Message of November 5th, 2008, and now -- I now seek leave to consider the appointments on a roll call. Madam President, will you put the question as required by our rules?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

A motion has been filed requesting that a separate vote be taken on the appointment to the Prisoner Review Board and that a separate vote be taken on the appointment to the Workers' Compensation Commission. Being supported by the required number of sponsors, that motion is in order and a separate vote will be taken on the appointees to the Prisoner Review Board and that a separate vote be taken on the appointment to the Workers' Compensation Commission. In the matter of the appointment of Geraldine Tyler to be a member of the Prisoner Review Board, is there any discussion? Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Madam Chair. I -- I wonder if I could request either that the honorable Chairman slow down a little bit or that there be less noise in the Chamber. And really, if both of those could happen, I think it would help everyone understand kind of what's going on around here. I understand everyone's in a hurry to want to get out of here, but I think it's important that everyone actually hear and understand what's being said.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

You got it. If everybody just can please be quiet. And, Senator Hendon - we know how good you are at moving the pace - we'll slow it down a little. Senator Righter. Seeing no discussion, the question is, does the Senate... Senator

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Luechtefeld.

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

Thank you, Madam President and Members of the Senate. This particular individual who is wanting to be on the Prisoner Review Board has a -- a history of -- on that board already, that I think an awful lot of victims feel that she has not been -- not been fair, that she has come down on the side certainly of -- of the -- of the accused in -- in many instances, to the point where we are very concerned about that. We also have heard of a number of situations where she has been very abrupt, very -- almost -- almost -- well, rude to the -- the victims' families in these hearings. And we -- we are very concerned about this particular appointee, and I -- I know that all of the Members on the Republican side voted against this individual in committee. And we would like certainly for the majority side to take a serious look at this, as a person maybe that shouldn't be on that particular board. So, I -- anyway, that's -- that's my comment on it.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Further discussion? Senator Millner.

SENATOR MILLNER:

Thank you, Madam Chairman, and congratulations to you, incidentally. I just wanted the -- the Body to know that I received a lot of letters from different organizations, especially those from victims' groups, some State's attorneys and others who are very concerned about this woman on the Prisoner Review Board, apparently because she votes, according to them, yes more than no that people are to be released, especially those with a C number. What that means is those

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people who have been incarcerated when we did not have the death penalty and that - the death penalty - the judges would have imposed it if they could have; they didn't. And this woman just seems to want to just continue to release them. And I just wanted the Body to be aware of it. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Madam President, in brief response, I just checked with my Administrative Assistant and -- with -- with Dodge here. None of us - and I am Chairman of the committee - received any communications whatsoever from any victims' groups or from any State's attorney. The State's attorneys did not come out against Ms. Tyler. In addition, the person has to be a fair-minded person. She presented herself well before the committee. All the Democrats supported her, and I would hope that every Member of the Senate could support her today. She's a fine, outstanding person. Yes, every now and then, she may vote to let someone out, and -- and people get out sometimes and disappoint you, but that's part of life. She's a wonderful person, presented herself well, and I'd appreciate her approval.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Further discussion? Senator Crotty.

SENATOR CROTTY:

I rise as the Senate sponsor, but I also have known Geraldine Tyler. I was surprised to get that letter. I, too, have never heard from any of the organizations. This was one person writing, claiming that she had -- she was an advocate for all of these organizations. I also hadn't heard of one name of

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a prisoner that was left on parole because of Gerry's vote. So there was no credence there. I also feel like you had an opportunity to ask her these questions. And I know there was -- you know, when you say rude, that in the letter, it -- it was in quotes about "shut up", and she said she never said that. She called me this morning, and -- and it was upsetting to her to hear of all these allegations, and she said, "I didn't sleep a wink last night." Because she felt her reputation was put on the line and there was nobody actually there that she could have spoken to that were making these accusations. I, too, feel very strongly for the victims' families, but I know Geraldine does too. She has worked with some of those families and she stated to you that she's even cried with them over some of the -- the -- the situations that came before that Prisoner Review Board. I'm going to say that I think with Gerry not being appraised {sic} of all of this criticism, no one ever has the opportunity to make those changes. So, I ask that you, in fact, give your vote to Mrs. Tyler and I think that, as I spoke to her, if she's ever been abrasive or comes across that way, she certainly will look at -- at that. So I ask for a Yes vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Further discussion? Senator Bivins.

SENATOR BIVINS:

Thank you, Madam Chairman. One of the -- I just got contacted last night -- yesterday by some families of victims. One of those in my home county - his name is Bert Fordham. He was killed in 1979 in the Lee County Jail by two inmates - murdered. His family has opposed the release of the inmates every year -- or, every time they come up for release, and they

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have concerns also. And, again, if you -- if you didn't get that information, I just received it myself last night, and apparently a lot of the -- the families of victims have not received notification of this appointment. So, I am opposed to this on behalf of those families that have concerns and appreciate a Nay vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon, to close.

SENATOR HENDON:

Yeah, thank you, Madam President. I, too, have major concerns and compassion for the victims' families. This is a reappointment, which is what I wanted to point out. Also, Jim Dodge has talked to appellate prosecutor and the State's attorneys. They are not against this nominee and we would appreciate her approval.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The question is, does the Senate advise and consent to the appointment just read. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 34 Yeas, 19 Nays, 1 voting Present. A majority of the Senators elected concurring by record vote, the Senate does advise and consent to the appointment of Geraldine Tyler as a member of the Prisoner Review Board. In the matter of the appointment of Yolaine Dauphin to be a member of the Workers' Compensation Commission, is there any discussion? Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the

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Chamber. Our side of the aisle -- and I want to thank the Chairman for recognizing the motion to divide the question so that we could discuss Miss Dauphin's nomination separately, for this reason: businesses, the people who employ your constituents and help them make a living, give them an opportunity to make a living. I don't know about your districts, but I think it's true in lots of parts of the State, the employers in my district say of all the things that have been put in place in terms of policy from here in Springfield that make it difficult for businesses to succeed and therefore hire our constituents, that perhaps none is worse than the way the workers' compensation system dysfunctions in this State. And this nominee, with all due respect to her, is part of the problem. I have two cases right here before me where the commissioner appointed by management and the commissioner appointed by labor agreed that the worker claiming benefits did not deserve them. Okay? To be clear again - the person who's supposed to represent the injured worker said, "No, they don't deserve it in this case." This nominee still argued and voted to give those benefits. Now, we always talk about coming together and consensus in government and whatnot and we hope that we can come together and have consensus on items of common sense, and you would think that when both the labor commissioner and the management commissioner get together and say this person doesn't deserve benefits, that the person appointed to represent the public - and that's her position that she's up for now, to represent the taxpayers - would also be willing to sign on to that. Additionally, we're not aware of a single case, not one case, where she has disagreed with the labor commissioner. Now,

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those of you who are only worried about voting with labor, then I suppose you're okay with that. But for those of you who represent constituents who like to have jobs and make a living, perhaps you ought to give that a second thought. On behalf of the employers and the people who work for them in my district, I'm going to oppose the nomination. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Further discussion? Senator Schoenberg.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

Thank you, Madam President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I find it very troubling that there are those in this Chamber who are seeking ideological purity or an ideological predisposition to appointments where conscientious, qualified people...

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Excuse me, Senator Schoenberg. We cannot hear. Please keep it down. Senator Schoenberg.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

I -- I find it very troubling and disconcerting that ideological purity is sought for qualified, capable people. In this case, you have an appointee who's a reappointment, someone who has a distinguished background, whose only fault, apparently, is that she considers every case on its merit on a case-by-case basis. And since she's not here to defend the attack on -- on her job performance, I'll do it for her. She's a constituent of mine. She answered in committee yesterday, Ladies -- Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, that she approaches every case on the facts itself, on a case-by-case basis, which is precisely how I want somebody, whether they're a

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judge, whether on the Workers' Compensation Review Board, whatever the case may be. I don't expect everybody to agree with me all the time. I don't expect everybody to agree with me most of the time. All I want to know is that that person has -- is highly skilled, demonstrates integrity, and considers all the facts of the case as appropriate. And she has done so and I think she warrants the confirmation of this Body. If you're seeking ideological purity, there's nothing that I'm going to say that's going to dissuade you. But if you want somebody who's honest, smart and approaches everything on a case-by-case basis and who has the necessary experience and skill set, you should vote to reconfirm her. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Any further discussion? Senator Luechtefeld.

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

Thank you, Madam President, Members of the Senate. I guess I would like to ask a couple questions of the previous speaker, if I could. Would he entertain...?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield.

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

Normally, the procedure in dealing with a person on some of these commissions is, prior to making appointments to the commissioner -- or, to the commission, the Governor shall request that the advisory board take recommendations as to the -- as to the candidates to consider for appointment. And the advisory board then may, then, make such recommendations. She did not go before the advisory board, Senator. Is there a reason for that? And -- and the second question I have: There

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were several people who are up for reappointment in 2009. She is up for reappointment in 2009. Why did the Governor pick her out and -- and, first of all, not send her through this advisory board? And then, secondly, why did he pick her out and -- and appoint her when her -- her appointment doesn't come up until 2009 and there are a number of other people who are just like that?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Well, first of all, I do believe the Governor is on the second floor, so you most certainly can -- can ask him. I speak with him on a regular basis, but this was not one of the subjects. But let me say this, because this is a reappointment - also, I've just checked with my quite capable staff, which is one of the best here in Springfield, to make sure - on this issue not a single business group, not one single business group contacted the Chair of the committee or the Vice-Chair DeLeo's office against this nominee. And I just checked with my staff one more time to be certain of that and that is the case. So, if they contacted you, that's one thing. But I am still the Chair of this committee, until that changes, and they know the protocol. They did not contact us against her. Other than that, I can't speak for the Governor. He can speak for himself.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Luechtefeld.

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

Senator, doesn't it seem a little strange to you that -- you know, the Governor normally is way behind on these

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appointments. I mean, there are literally, probably hundreds of people out there who their appointment date is passed. Here's one we pick out of a group who -- whose appointment is 2009 and make that appointment. Obviously, doesn't that seem a little strange to you, Senator?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

There is nothing Governor Rod Blagojevich can do that seems strange to me.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Luechtefeld.

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

Well, again, the previous speaker, Senator Schoenberg, mentioned that this lady makes the right decision. She looks at it. She does a good job. She -- she -- she's fair. Well, there obviously are people who would disagree with you, Senator. I mean, you know, this is your opinion. But there are an awful lot of people who would disagree. I mean, she is -- she is the public commissioner on that board. There are people who -- with expertise from business. People who -- with expertise from -- from the unions. She is supposed to be exactly like you said, a nonbiased person. But there are many people who feel that that is not the case, and that's why we've opposed her. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Further discussion? Senator Raoul.

SENATOR RAOUL:

Thank you, Madam President. You know, I -- I'm a bit bothered that an isolated case was selected to discuss this

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particular candidate. I rarely rise to speak. I don't think I've ever risen to speak on an executive appointment. I just happen to personally know this lawyer and this commissioner. And I just happen to be a lawyer who practice at the Workers' Compensation Commissioner {sic}, representing employers. I've never practiced on a petitioner side. So, with regards to workers' compensation matters, my experience is being rather sensitive to the concerns of the respondent in the case, which is employers. In fact, Senator Cronin and I, from year to year, speak at a workers' compensation conference about the need for workers' compensation reform. I know Miss Dauphin, who clerked for a Supreme Court Justice, and during that experience, she learned how to be -- how to consider cases on a case-by-case basis. It's easy to pick one case, one isolated case, and say that person disagreed with two other commissioners. But we should not ever evaluate somebody on the basis of one isolated case. Miss Dauphin did present herself in committee, and -- and in committee, she did reply to the question as -- as to whether she ever ruled in favor of an employer. She said, "Yes." Unequivocally, yes. So, the notion that we're to judge her on the one case that was mentioned on the Floor when she unequivocally answered that question is disingenuous at best.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Any further discussion? Seeing none, the question is... Senator Hendon, do you wish to close? No. The question is, does the Senate advise and consent to the appointment just read. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there

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are 43 Yeas, 12 voting Nay, none voting Present. And a majority of the Senators elected concurring by record vote, the Senate does advise and consent to the appointment of Yolaine Dauphin to be a member of the Workers' Compensation Commission. In the matter of the appointment of the other salaried appointees named in the Governor's Message of November 5th, is there any discussion? Seeing none, the question is, does the Senate advise and consent to the appointments just read... Senator Luechtefeld, do you wish to talk even though your light was not on?

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

Madam President and Members of the Senate, there -- there is some concern and some questions about the Director of Juvenile Justice. If you'll remember, a few years ago, we -- we divided that -- that group from Corrections and set up the Department of Juvenile Justice. We did that for a number of reasons, we thought. And there were some of us, maybe, who were against that at the time. They had a number of things that they wanted to do to make -- you know, feel that these young -- young people would be treated better and -- and maybe could -- could some day be productive citizens. We're -- we're finding that -- and I don't know whether it's the lack of money or what it is, but there -- there are an awful lot of things that they said they were going to do with regard to education that are -- that it's simply not happening. And -- and I think the individual who is -- has been appointed to -- to head this is probably a fine individual, and I'm not opposing him. My question, though, would be, why isn't -- why -- why are they not doing the things they said they would do with this Department? And I -- and I --

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I would guess that the sponsor over -- would not be able to maybe answer that. But that is happening, and I think there are some concerns, certainly by the union, of -- with regard to this and you may have heard those -- those concerns. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

...President. Yesterday, in committee, Senator Trotter questioned the gentleman extensively. We're okay with this appointment. And there was no motion filed to separate him, so we will be taking them all on the same roll call. I'd appreciate an -- an Aye vote for the entire list.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

The question is, does the Senate advise and consent to the appointments just read by -- from the Governor's Message of November 5th. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 57 Yeas, none voting Nay, none voting Present. And a majority of the Senators elected concurring by record vote, the Senate does advise and consent to the appointments just read. Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senator Hendon, Chairman of the Committee on Executive Appointments, to which was referred the Governor's Message of November 5th, 2008, reported the same back with the recommendation that the Senate do advise and consent to the following appointments.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

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Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

With respect to the Governor's Message of November 5th, 2008, I will read the non-salaried appointments of which the Committee on Executive Appointments recommends that the Senate do advise and consent:

To be a member of the Department of Children and Family Services for -- Advisory Council, for a term commencing August 30th {sic} (20), 2008, and ending January 19, 2009, and for a term commencing January 20th, 2009, and ending January 21st, 2013: Micki Chulick.

To be a member of the Department of Children and Family Services Advisory Council, for a term commencing October 14th, 2008, and ending January 19, 2009, and for a term commencing January 20th, 2009, and ending January 21st, 2013: Raul Garza.

To be a member of the Department of Children and Family Services Advisory Council, for a term commencing October 14th {sic} (17), 2008, and ending January 17, 2011: Marian Norton.

To be a member of the Department of Children and Family Services Advisory Council, for a term commencing August 20th, 2008, and ending January 16, 2012: Maripat Oliver.

To be members of the -- Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan Board, for a term commencing May 5th, 2008, and ending July 1st, 2008, and for terms commencing July 2nd, 2008, and ending July 1st, 2011: Howard Bolnick, Deirdre Manna, and Stephen Stabile.

To be members of the Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan Board, for a term commencing May 5th, 2008, and ending July 1st, 2009: Ann Fisher, David Hill, Richard Kotz, and Laura Leon.

To be members of the Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan --

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Plan Board, for terms commencing May 5th, 2008, and ending July 1, 2010: James Meyer and Jay Naftzger.

To be a member of the Community College Board, for a term commencing October 17th, 2008, and ending June -- 30th, 2013: James Dumas.

To be a member of the Community College Board, for a term commencing October 14th, 2008, and ending June 30th, 2013: Judith Rake.

To be a member of the Guardianship and Advocacy Commission, for a term commencing August 29th, 2008, and ending June 30th, 2010: Anthony Rothert.

To be a member of the Guardianship and Advisory {sic} (Advocacy) Commission, for a term commencing June 20th, 2008, and ending June 30th, 2009: Andrea Schleifer.

To be a member of the Health Facilities Planning Board, for a term commencing June 30th {sic} (3rd), 2008, and ending July 1, 2010: David Penn.

To be a member of the Historic Preservation Agency Board of Trustees, for a term commencing January 20th, 2009, and ending January 17th, 2011: Daniel Arnold.

To be members of the University of -- of the Illinois State University Board of Trustees, for terms commencing July 2nd, 2008, and ending January 21st, 2013: Robert Dobski and Joanne Maitland.

To be a member of the Department of Labor Advisory Board, for a term commencing July 21st, 2008, and ending January 18th, 2010: Mark Guethle.

To be a member of the Medical Disciplinary Board, for a term commencing October 17th, 2008, and ending January 1, 2011:

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Quincy Scott.

To be a member of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority, for a term commencing September 9th, 2008, and ending June 1st, 2012: Thomas Villanova.

To be a member of the Mid-Illinois Medical District Commission, for a term commencing August 1st, 2008, and ending June 30th, 2011: Rex Harley Brown.

To be a member of the Mid-Illinois Medical District Commission, for a term commencing October 14th, 2008, and ending June 30th, 2012: Vivian {sic} (Virginia) Cooper.

To be a member of the Mid-Illinois Medical District Commission, for a term commencing May 2nd, 2008, and ending June 30th, 2012: Gordon Mazzotti.

To be a member of the State Museum Board, for a term commencing June 20th, 2008, and ending January 15th, 2009, and for a term commencing January 16th, 2009, and ending January 15th, 2011: Brian Butler.

To be the Public Administrator of Cook County, for a term commencing November 6, 2008, and ending December 5th, 2009: Nicholas Grapsas.

To be a member of the Illinois Racing Board, for a term commencing June -- I mean -- November 3rd, 2008, and ending July 1, 2010: Michael Murphy.

To be a member of the Southern Illinois University Board of Trustees, for a term commencing October 17th, 2008, and ending January 17th, 2011: Frank William Bonan.

To be a member of the Southern Illinois University Board of Trustees, for a term commencing June 3rd of 2008, and ending January 21st, 2013: Edward Hightower.

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To be a member of the Southern Illinois University Board of Trustees, for a term commencing May 2nd, 2008, and ending January 21st, 2013: Keith Sanders.

To be a member of the Southern Illinois University Board of Trustees, for a term commencing January {sic} (June) 3rd of 2008, and ending January 21st, 2013: John Simmons.

To be a member of the Southwestern Illinois Department -- Development Authority, for a term commencing September 19th, 2008, and ending January 17, 2011: Roger Poole.

To be a member of the Sports Facilities Authority, for a term commencing June 3rd of 2008, and ending June 30th, 2010: John McCarthy.

To be a member of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, for a term commencing June 20th, 2008, and ending June 30th, 2009: Sean Dauber.

To be a member of the Waukegan Port District Board, for a term commencing October 20th, 2008, and ending May 13 {sic} (31), 2013: Jorge Torres.

To be a member of the Workers' Compensation Medical Free Admission {sic} (Fee Advisory) Board, for a term commencing June -- July 21st, 2008, and ending December 5th, 2009: Kimberly Moreland.

To be a member of the Workforce Investment Board, for a term commencing September 9th, 2008, and ending July 1st, 2011: Teresa Payne.

Madam President, having read the non-salaried appointments from the Governor's Message of November 5th, 2008, I now seek leave to consider the appointments on a roll call. Madam President, will you put the question as required by our rules?

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Senator Hendon. I just have a couple clarifications. We just want to make sure you said, David Penn from June 3rd, 2008, ending July 1, 2010. And then it was not Vivian Cooper, but Virginia Cooper - just for clarification. Is there any discussion? Seeing none, the question is, does the Senate advise and consent to the appointment just read from the Governor's Message of November 5th. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 57 Yeas, none voting Nay, none voting Present. And a majority of the Senators elected concurring by record vote, the Senate does advise and consent to the appointments just read. Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senator Hendon, Chairman of the Committee on Executive Appointments, to which was referred the Governor's Message of May 15th, 2008 corrected, reported the same back with the recommendation that the Senate do advise and consent to the following appointment.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Madam President, with respect to the Governor's Message of May 15th, 2008, I will read the non-salaried appointment to which the Committee on Executive Appointments recommends that the Senate do advise and consent:

To be a member of the Carnival-Amusement Safety Board, for

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a term commencing May 12th, 2008, and ending January 17th, 2011:
Anthony Urbik.

Madam President, having read the non-salaried appointment from the Governor's Message of May 5th -- 15th, 2008, I now seek leave to consider the appointment on a roll call. Madam President, will you put the question as required by our rules?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none, the question is, does the Senate advise and consent to the appointments just read from the Governor's Message of May 15th. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 54 Yeas, none voting Nay, none voting Present. A majority of the Senators elected concurring by record vote, the Senate does advise and consent to the appointments just read. Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senator Hendon, Chairman of the Committee on Executive Appointments, to which was referred the Attorney General's Messages of May 23rd, 2008, reported the same back with the recommendation that the Senate do advise and consent to the following appointments.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Madam President, with respect to the Attorney General's Message of May 23rd, 2008, I will read the salaried appointments to which the Committee on Executive Appointments recommends that

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the Senate do advise and consent:

To be an Inspector General in the Office of the Executive Inspector General, for a term commencing May 23rd, 2008, and ending June 30th, 2012: Diane Saltoun -- Saltoun.

To be a Commissioner of the Executive Ethics Commission, for a term commencing May 23rd, 2008, and ending June 30th, 2012: Shawn Denney.

Madam President, having read the salaried appointments from the Attorney General's Message of May 23rd, 2008, I now seek leave to consider the appointments on a roll call. Madam President, will you put the question as required by our rules?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none, the question is, does the Senate advise and consent to the appointments just read by the -- from the Attorney General's Message of May 23rd. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 57 Yeas, none voting Nay, none voting Present. And a majority of the Senators elected concurring by record vote, the Senate does advise and consent to the appointments just read. Senator Cronin, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR CRONIN:

Just a point of personal privilege. I -- I -- on the previous roll call, I had intended to vote Yes, and I don't want those appointees to think that there's some message there. I think well of them. I just didn't get to my button on time. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

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Thank you, Senator Cronin. The record shall so reflect.
Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank you, Madam President. I move that the Senate arise
from Executive Session.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Hendon moves that the Senate arise from Executive
Session. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The
Ayes have it, and the motion carries. The Senate has arisen
from Executive Session. Ladies and Gentlemen, we will be
returning to the regular Calendar, top of page 2, on House Bills
3rd Reading. Senator Link, do you wish -- you seek leave to
return House Bill 427 to the Order of 2nd Reading for the
purpose of an amendment? Senator Link -- on the Order of 2nd
Reading is -- so, Senator Link seeks leave of the Body to return
House Bill 427 to the Order of 2nd Reading for the purpose of an
amendment. Hearing no objection, leave is granted. On the
Order of 2nd Reading is House Bill 427. Madam Secretary, are
there any amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Floor Amendment No. 1, offered by Senator Link.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Link, to explain your amendment.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Madam President. This amendment just requires
that U.S. Defense Department police officers must get minimum
training requirements prescribed by the Illinois Law Enforcement
Training and -- Standards Board for peace officers of unit of
local government. Know of no opposition to it.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? Senator Link moves the adoption of Amendment No. 1 to House Bill 427. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the amendment is adopted. Are there any further Floor amendments approved for consideration?

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

No further amendments reported, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

3rd Reading. Now on the Order of 3rd Reading is House Bill 427. Senator Link, do you wish to proceed? Madam Secretary.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

House Bill 427.

(Secretary reads title of bill)

3rd Reading of the bill.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Madam President. The amendment became the bill. I know of no opposition. This is an agreement between the City of North Chicago and the Great Lakes Naval Base.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Any discussion? The question is, shall House Bill 427 pass. All those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 57 Yeas, none voting Nay, none voting Present. House Bill 427, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senate President

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Jones, on House Bill 2973. Senator Lightford, on 5141. Okay, then we're going to be moving to... Everybody should have received Supplemental Calendar No. 1. So, at the top of Senate Calendar, Supplemental Calendar No. 1, we have Senator Munoz, on Senate Bill 450. Madam Secretary. ...Secretary, read the motion.
SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 4 to Senate Bill 450.

Filed by Senator Antonio Munoz.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Munoz, to explain your motion.

SENATOR MUNOZ:

Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. House Amendment 4 deletes everything and becomes the bill. As amended, Senate Bill 450 requires all State Police patrol vehicles to be equipped with video and audio recording equipment and for all interactions with the public involving State Police patrol vehicles to be recorded. It also provides a funding mechanism to replace aging State Police patrol vehicles through a one-dollar surcharge added to motor vehicle registrations made with the Secretary of State.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

There any discussion? Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Madam President. Will the sponsor yield, please?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

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Thank you. Senator Munoz, to be clear, you're proposing, with this bill, that all motor vehicle registrations be bumped up by one dollar and that that money would -- the intent, anyway, is that that money would be used to pay for -- help pay for new police cars for the State Police. Is that right?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Munoz.

SENATOR MUNOZ:

That's correct, Senator.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Can you tell me, Senator Munoz, what fund in the State treasury would that one-dollar increase be deposited into?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Munoz.

SENATOR MUNOZ:

State Police Vehicle Fund.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Madam President. Can you tell me, Senator Munoz, to your knowledge, whether or not the State Police Vehicle Fund has been subject to the sweeps or raids, either imposed by this General Assembly in the last six years or by the unilateral authority that your party gave him for a number of years that has since expired? Has that money ever been taken out pursuant to either a sweep or that kind of raid?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

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Senator Munoz.

SENATOR MUNOZ:

As far as I know, Senator -- it's not certain, over the years, if they were taken or not, according to -- we're only given what the State Police has given us. What they were able to do with it.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

I apologize, Senator, I didn't understand your response. Do we -- to your knowledge, has money been extracted out of that fund in the last six years and was used to pay for things other than motor vehicles for the State Police?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Munoz.

SENATOR MUNOZ:

I am not aware of that, Senator, if any money's been taken over the last six years from the fund.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank -- thank you, Madam President. Senator Munoz, is this fund, to your knowledge, by legislative language or otherwise, protected from being swept, like we've seen in the last several years?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Munoz.

SENATOR MUNOZ:

There's not -- nothing is in there saying that it can't be

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swept, Senator.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

Thank you, Madam President. Who will decide how the money in the State Police Motor Vehicle Fund is spent? Who decides that, Senator?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Munoz.

SENATOR MUNOZ:

It's my understanding that'd be to the discretion of the director. The money would be used for aging police vehicles. The average vehicle is about a hundred and eighty-seven thousand miles a year. And they just don't have enough vehicles to be placed out there. It's a -- it's a safety hazard. That's why the State Police needs this funding, so they can replace the aging vehicles.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

To the -- to the bill, please, Madam President. Thank you very much. And, Senator Munoz, thank you for those responses. And I know you were both forthright and honest in your responses. Having said that, in the last six years, this fund has been swept. It's been swept for over a quarter million dollars. Now I don't know exactly how much a new State Police car costs, but I'm pretty sure it's less than two hundred and seventy thousand dollars. This fund has been swept and there's no reason to believe, based on Senator Munoz's comments, that it

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won't be swept again. It's true that the Director of the State Police will decide how to spend those funds. The Director of the State Police works for who? The Governor, who has been the most adamant proponent of fund sweeps, regardless of how our constituents view the importance of that money in those funds and what it's designed to be spent on. If your constituents believe that they're not paying enough for State government, if your constituents believe that they should go ahead and pay more in their vehicle registrations so that there is a chance that maybe some of this money will go for vehicles, then you ought to vote for this. If you recall clearly the history of the last six years and what we've seen go on time again in this building, you will recall that the problem here is not that there's not enough money; it's that the money is badly being misspent. And for that reason, I would urge a No vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Any further discussion? Senator Millner.

SENATOR MILLNER:

Thank you, Madam Chairman. Look, I mean, here is something that we all have to be concerned about. We have police officers driving equipment that is shoddy. It's unsafe. We all are obligated to do something, and right now, today, we have a bill in front of us that if we cast the green light, push the green light, we can fix this problem. It's fact. If we don't and we push the red light, it will go on to perhaps next year and then we'll have to make a decision at that time. In the meantime, these cars are racking up, some of them, well over two hundred thousand miles. This is nuts. Now, I talked to -- I called the -- the Chief of Staff for the Governor and I asked him that

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specific question: "Are you going to sweep this fund, too?" And he assured me that they would not. That's not their intention. They won't do it. Now, I understand it's up to the Governor. I understand that. But it's our obligation, I think, today, to vote Yes to protect our State troopers who are doing their jobs to protect us, and for that, I ask for an Aye vote. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Further discussion? Senator Luechtefeld.

SENATOR LUECHTEFELD:

Thank you, Madam President. I spoke to the Assistant Director of the Illinois State Police, who lives down in my district, and he came really in favor of this bill. And I -- and I rise today to support the bill. It is sort of a shame that we have to, because, you know, how did we get to this point? I mean, you know, the funds have been swept. You know, we are not paying our bills, and I -- I think the whole State finances are coming apart and you're going to see some very ugly things over the next six months. But I -- I do believe this is a -- sort of a stopgap way to -- to get this done. And for those people who are afraid that the Governor will sweep these funds, the Director basically said that he will spend this money as it comes in. So there probably won't be an accumulation of -- of a lot of money in this fund. And -- and -- and again, it -- it -- it is -- it's not the right way to handle this, but it -- at this time, it might be the only way to handle this. And so I rise in support of the bill and -- and ask people to vote for it. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

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Any further discussion? Senator Haine.

SENATOR HAINE:

Thank you, Madam President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I agree with the previous two speakers. A, this is an officer-safety issue. It's an immediate issue. It -- the -- the one dollar has a direct connection to the highways and to the safety of the officers on the highways. These -- Senator Millner has been assured. I've been assured that the Governor will not sweep this. We must take this action to assure not only that the citizens are served with functioning vehicles for patrol to scenes of crimes, but that the officers and their families are assured that they are safe when they are pursuing the interests of justice, which is a dangerous occupation in and of itself. So, this is one dollar to assure public safety. And I also would ask for an Aye vote. And I appreciate Senator Munoz having the courage to bring this bill forward again. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Further discussion? Senator Lauzen.

SENATOR LAUZEN:

Thank you, Madam President, and congratulations on your victory. First of all, I agree with my colleague, Senator Haine, that this is a -- an officer-safety issue. But this has been an officer-safety issue for as long as I've been here over the last sixteen years. I believe that the sponsor's and all the proponents' desire is -- is honorable and on -- you know, going in the right direction. The problem is, is that the underlying premise to this bill is the Governor has assured us or has assured anyone of anything. The last time we met,

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several weeks ago, there was a sweep that was passed. We thought that we were going to be protecting a whole number of needs. As of this morning, on public radio, I heard that it still hasn't been released. And now he's thinking about it some more. The Governor - who we would accept any kind of assurance from this Governor - is thinking about it because the revenues are slowing down, and we are going to face -- if we think it's bad now, in approximately four to six months, it's going to be absolute disaster. As several other Senators have alluded to, the correct way to go about this - and I would be happy to cosponsor this legislation with one of the Leaders on the other side or the current sponsor - the proper way is to have legislation that would allocate a portion of our fifty- to sixty-billion-dollar budget -- to allocate the dollar or the -- the -- actually, the hundreds of thousands that we need to correct this, that we have to give instructions from the appropriation process to this Governor, who we cannot trust based on his actions. Allocate it in the legislation and we get what we need. It is an officer safety -- they rely on us to be smart enough not to be fooled another time. It's not a second time; it's another time. So proper way, I'll be happy to cosponsor it. But this is nothing more than another tax increase, another fee increase, and it's just ripe for abuse.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Further discussion? Senator Jacobs.

SENATOR JACOBS:

I rise in strong support of the measure. Recently -- two accidents I want to call to your attention. In September of 2008, a 00 Explorer, the axle broke with a police officer in it.

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In August of 2008, due to a total brake failure, an officer going ten mile an hour was involved in a three-car accident. As a result of these two incidents, the State Police said, we need to do an inspection of all our cars. Forty-three percent of the State cars that police officers are driving in in the State of Illinois didn't pass the test. Now, sure, there's a better way to build a railroad and -- and we should find a better way to dedicate this money, but I assure you that those -- those officers in the field will spend that money down every month because the need is so great. The average police car, State Police car in Illinois, has a hundred and seventy-four thousand miles - hundred and seventy-four thousand miles.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Further discussion? Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY:

Thank you, Madam President. To the bill: First, let me commend the -- the intentions of those who support this bill and have spoken on behalf of it today. But I have to ask, how many times are we going to bail the Governor out for his fiscal mismanagement of this State? We -- the taxpayers, last year, of this State gave us a record amount of revenue. And yet, the Governor can't find it within record revenue to take care of a priority like keeping our patrolmen safe by putting them in current vehicles - within record revenue. Now we're in the midst of what is clearly a recession, one of the worst that most of us has seen in our life. And so rather than tell the Governor to go back to the drawing board and make a priority that we all share, a budgetary priority, we're going to go to the taxpayers just when they're getting laid off and saying we could use a

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little more. The record revenue you gave us last year wasn't good enough. Dig deeper. Give State government more money, because Rod Blagojevich doesn't know how to handle his responsibilities. Are we going to enable him yet again, or not? That's really what this vote boils down to. Send a message to the Governor that the days of enabling him are over. Reject this proposal. Reject this fee increase and give the people of this State a break. I urge a No vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Last speaker, Senator Risinger.

SENATOR RISINGER:

Thank you, Madam Secretary. To the bill: Now, I normally would not support this because I think it should be a operating budget issue. We have discussed this over and over and over again, and if there's a increase in the license, in the registration fee, I think it should go to road and bridges and - - and provide the matching funds that we need there. But the truth of the matter is, in today's economy and looking at the situation, I don't see us coming up with the money and I don't see the Governor coming up with the money to protect the safety of the State Police. So I'm going to vote for this. I hope at some time in the future we may be able to repeal it and send it back over to the Road Fund, where it really belongs. But in the meantime, for the safety of the -- of the police and for the integrity of -- of the State Police system, I'm going to vote Yes.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Munoz, to close.

SENATOR MUNOZ:

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Thank you, Madam President. Ladies and Gentlemen, I appreciate the comments that I heard from my colleagues. What I'd like to have, that language here in this amendment for no sweep whatsoever, but, Ladies and Gentlemen, this is what we have. The police -- State Police are in dire need of these vehicles. As my colleague stated to you all, this is officer safety. And too, the men and women of the Sate Police, what do they all do? Take care of our citizens of this great State. So not only is it for their safety, but it's for them to have the equipment that they need in the event that they have to go to an accident, they go to a crime scene. Whatever the case may be, they're there serving our communities and serving this great State. I would urge an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

I just want to remind everybody that this takes a three-fifths vote. This is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendment No. 4 to Senate Bill 450. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 47 Yeas, 7 Nays, 0 voting Present. The Senate concurs in House Amendment No. 4 to Senate Bill 450. And the bill, having received the required constitutional three-fifths majority, is declared passed. Senator Koehler, you wish to proceed on Senate Bill 1290? Madam Secretary, read the motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1290.

Offered by Senator David Koehler.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Koehler, to explain your motion.

SENATOR KOEHLER:

Thank you, Madam President, Members of the Senate. House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1290 amends the Counties Code in the Section of the Special County Retailers' Occupational Tax For Public Safety or Transportation to also allow for the funding of public facilities, including museums and nursing homes. This bill allows the county board of any county to impose a special county retailers' occupational tax for the purpose of public facility purposes, which is subject to voter approval. And let me just mention what this means for Peoria County. We have a -- a museum that is being proposed for the downtown area. It coincides with the Caterpillar Visitor's Center. Caterpillar has put up already about sixty million dollars for this project. A group of civic and government leaders have come to us and asked that we do this to allow a front-door referendum on this. And I would ask for your approval of this motion. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? Senator Risinger.

SENATOR RISINGER:

Thank you, Madam President. I rise in support of this concurrence. It is important to our area. And I do want to remind everybody, it is a front-door referendum that we're allowing the voters to vote on.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Further discussion? Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

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Thank you, Madam Chair. Briefly, to the bill: I just want to make sure, for everyone's edification, particularly those Members on the Republican side of the aisle, this does allow county boards to impose a tax increase. It is through a front-door referendum, which I congratulate the sponsor for making sure that the people in the counties do have a say on that. But if you are someone who believes that enough taxing authority exists already in local governments, you may want to give this a close look. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

This is final action, and the question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1290. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 51 Yeas, 4 voting Nay, none voting Present. And the Senate concurs in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1290. And the bill, having received the required constitutional three-fifths majority, is declared passed. Senator Clayborne, on Senate Bill 1415. Senator Haine, on Senate Bill 1890. Madam Secretary, read the motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1890.

Filed by Senator William Haine.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Haine, to explain the motion.

SENATOR HAINE:

Thank you -- thank you, Madam President - and

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Congressperson-elect. As you recall -- as the Senate recalls, 1890 raised the threshold to a hundred thousand dollars from five for the necessity for requiring surety bonds. It passed the Senate. The House added amendments at the request of the insurance industry. And it allows a surety company more time to determine how to proceed in a possible default and it has various other provisions that the surety companies wanted. That's what the amendment did in the House.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none, this is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1890. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 Yeas, none voting Nay, none voting Present. And the Senate concurs in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 1890. And the bill, having received the required constitutional three-fifths majority, is declared passed. Senator Clayborne, on 2015. Madam Secretary, read the motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendments 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 2015.

Offered by Senator James Clayborne.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Clayborne, to explain your motion.

SENATOR CLAYBORNE:

Thank you, Madam Congresswoman-elect. This creates the Illinois New Market Tax {sic} Development Program. It is

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economic stimulus for rural and emerging urban markets. The State program will leverage federal and -- federal credits and private capital. It will make Illinois more attractive for investments than any other states, thereby encouraging millions of dollars to be invested in Illinois. The investments can only be made in businesses that are ineligible for traditional financing. This targets communities that have a median income of less than eighty percent of the State average income or a twenty percent poverty level. Basically, this would help create capital investment in some of our poorer and low-income communities. I would ask for a favorable vote. What -- what -- and -- and the change is, we originally passed this out and the -- the tax credit was -- was lowered from forty million to ten million dollars.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none, this is final action. And the question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendments 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 2015. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 57 Yeas, none voting Nay, none voting Present. And the Senate concurs in House Amendments No. 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 2015. And the bill, having received the required constitutional three-fifths majority, is declared passed. Senator Haine, on 2031. Madam Secretary, read the motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2031.

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Offered by Senator William Haine.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Haine, to explain your motion.

SENATOR HAINE:

Thank you, Madam President and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. This amendment adds a provision that -- it's -- it's a twofold -- the gist of the bill is twofold: to allow a county board member to serve on a 9-1-1 board, a, which somebody indicated to me we might have already done in another bill, but, b, it relieves a surcharge on pay telephones, a 9-1-1 surcharge. The other telecoms are neutral on this. The people that maintain these pay phones maintain them now primarily in poor areas, where there is a percentage of people that do not have a cell phone or a land line. And to be able to remain economically viable, they wanted to relieve the -- the burden of paying the 9-1-1 surcharge on a pay phone. That's -- that's what it does. And, again, it's a hardship case.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none, this is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2031. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 57 Yeas, none voting Nay, none voting Present. And the Senate concurs in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2031. And the bill, having received the constitutional three-fifths majority, is declared passed. Senator Cullerton, on 2275. Madam Secretary, read the motion.

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SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2275.

Offered by Senator John Cullerton.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Cullerton, to explain your motion.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Thank you, Madam President, Members of the Senate. The amendment that I wish to concur with was put on in the House. It's really almost technical. The bill itself created an Illinois Juvenile Jurisdiction Task Force. And all the House amendment did was to put that task force within the Department of Juvenile Justice. Now -- so, concurrence with that is -- is -- is a simple question. The underlying bill was significant, though, and it also represented a compromise. It increases from seventeen to eighteen years the age in which offenders can be incarcerated, but it only applies to misdemeanors. That was done in an effort to accommodate the opponents, who were county governments, who felt it was going to be too costly. This now, therefore, only applies to misdemeanors. It's a very minimal cost to the counties, if any. And would ask for an Aye vote and be happy to answer any questions.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none, this is final action. And the... Oops! Senator Righter.

SENATOR RIGHTER:

I apologize. My light was -- my light was on late. I apologize, Madam President. I just -- for the edification, again, of the Members, it's my recollection and our staff's

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recollection that the bill -- this bill -- the underlying bill passed this Chamber the first time -- there were 15 No votes, based obviously on some Members' disagreement that we should move the jurisdictional age for juvenile court from seventeen to eighteen years of age. So, those of you who are not quite sure how you voted before, search your conscience or search your laptop if you wish to remain consistent. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

This is final action. And the question... Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Forgive me, Madam President. Just a quick question. Is -- is there a cost to local government on this that -- with this change?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Sponsor indicates he'll yield. Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Oh, no, Senator. The change is simply technical. It takes the task force and it puts it into the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Okay. So, this doesn't do it, but this sends the underlying bill to the Governor. But the underlying bill, that does have a -- because of that change, does that have a cost then to local government?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Cullerton.

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SENATOR CULLERTON:

Senator, the argument is that if you have juveniles who are now treated as adults, seventeen-year-olds, if they are treated as juveniles, they would receive some services that are provided for by the county. And to the extent that there's an increase in those services for those juveniles, there could be a minimal cost to the counties because they would be providing services to juveniles to make sure that they don't recidivate and commit crimes in the future. So, that -- that -- that argument was had in both the House and the Senate and the compromise was to make it misdemeanors, so it applies to so minimal number of -- of folks. And then the task force was setup to see whether or not there's a way, in the future, we should abandon this or even expand it to -- to -- to all crimes. And so, that's what the debate was. It reflected a compromise. And the House amendment is just technical.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Okay. Just -- just to clarify one more thing. So, if a person is seventeen under the old law and they got -- and it -- and they got probation or -- or something happened to -- there wouldn't be services available to them because they're an adult. This says that the judge would have discretion to take that seventeen-year-old, and if there were services available then, there would be services for that person that would now be considered a juvenile, they didn't have before?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Cullerton.

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SENATOR CULLERTON:

The seventeen-year-old charged with a misdemeanor would be charged as a juvenile, not in adult court. And as a result, because of the same services that we have for juveniles, that would be available to them. And they -- if it's a serious offense, obviously they can already be tried as an adult under a very -- under the current statute. So, these would be situations where the State's attorneys didn't want to ask that they be tried as an adult. They're only misdemeanors. They are charged -- they start off as a juvenile charged with a misdemeanor and they're -- the -- the services that are now available to juveniles would be available to them. Right now, if you're seventeen, you're automatically treated as an adult. I think there's thirty-eight states that have -- you know, eighteen is the age of -- of adulthood. So, it's -- and again, it -- it was controversial when it was all crimes, because that arguably was more cost to the counties. But, now, it's -- it's really, truly a minimal cost to the counties, if any.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Syverson.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

Last question. And I think that makes sense. Have the -- have the counties weighed in now with -- with the way it's changed with this language? Are they -- are they proponents, or opponents? Or has there been any idea of what cost we're talking about that counties would have?

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

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You know, yesterday, when it came out of committee, there were witness slips, but no testimony against it. Some counties are for it -- or, are neutral. Some counties are -- are not certain what the cost would be. It depends on each individual county. And so -- I have always said I think that their fears are -- are -- are exaggerated. And the fact is that the State will always benefit, because there'll be fewer recidivists that end up in State penitentiaries. So, if it's -- if it's any opposition, it's extremely mild at this point in time.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Cullerton, do you wish to close? This is final action. And the question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2275. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 43 Yeas, 13 Nays, none voting Present. And the Senate concurs in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2275. And the bill, having received the required constitutional three-fifths majority, is declared passed. Senator Lightford, on 2492. Madam Secretary, read the motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of -- of their Amendments 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 2492.

Filed by Senator Kimberly Lightford.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Lightford, to explain the motion.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Thank you, Madam President. Senate Bill 2492, Floor Amendments No. -- House Amendment, excuse me, No. 1 and 2 amends

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the Public Aid Code. It's regarding the Medicaid reimbursement for hospital psychiatric services. And as many of you know, when we first sent this bill over, it's the bill that brings thirty-six community hospitals to parity. They have psychiatric wards. Some of them have not received a fair increase in their reimbursement for twenty years. And this is a bill that would just bring all of them to parity. They're community hospitals that deal primarily with Medicaid patients. And I'm hoping that we could give them support. It passed out of here 57 votes before it went over to the House.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? Senator Pankau.

SENATOR PANKAU:

Yes. Thank you, Madam President. I urge an Aye vote on this bill. Specifically because it -- the bill originally got caught between the House and the Senate. This time, in the amendment, they specifically enumerated in the bill what things were going to be reimbursed for. So there's no need for any rulemaking. There's no misunderstandings between anybody. I urge an Aye vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Any further discussion? Seeing none, this is final action. And the question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendments No. 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 2492. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 58 Yeas, none voting Nay, none voting Present. The Senate concurs in House Amendments No. 1 and 2 to Senate Bill 2492. And the bill, having received the

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required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Top of page 2 of the Supplemental Calendar is Senator Haine, on Senate Bill 2536. Madam Secretary, read the motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2536.

Filed by Senator William Haine.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Haine, to explain your motion.

SENATOR HAINE:

Thank you, Madam President. This -- this amendment allows a felony -- or, a prosecutor -- an assistant State's attorney to work in one county as a prosecutor, as an assistant State's attorney, and, at the same time, be a member of a county board in another county. That's quite simply what it does.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Any discussion? Seeing none, this is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2536. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 57 Yeas, none voting Nay, none voting Present. And the Senate concurs in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2536. And the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Kotowski, on Senate Bill 2688. Madam Secretary, read the motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 2688.

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Offered by Senator Dan Kotowski.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Kotowski, to explain your motion.

SENATOR KOTOWSKI:

Thank you, Madam President - and Congresswoman-elect. Congratulations to you. House Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 2688 deletes the underlying bill and adds related language requiring schools conduct a law enforcement drill according to the district or private school's emergency and -- and crisis response plan, with the participation of the appropriate law enforcement agency. I would ask for a favorable vote.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? Seeing none, this is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 2688. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 56 Yeas, none voting Nay, none voting Present. The Senate concurs in House Amendment No. 2 to Senate Bill 2688. And the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Noland, on Senate Bill 2743. Madam Secretary, read the motion.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

I move to concur with the House in the adoption of their Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2743.

Filed by Senator Michael Noland.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator Noland, to explain your motion.

SENATOR NOLAND:

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Thank you, Madam President. This motion replaces a bill that had come to us late in the season, last -- last May. We didn't have enough time to preside over it. This is a bill that's received and a motion that's received bipartisan support. I've been able to work with this with Senator Syverson, who has done most of the substantive work. And I'm going to turn it over to him.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Is there any discussion? Senator Syverson, but your light's not on.

SENATOR SYVERSON:

It is. Thank you. Move do pass. Thank you, and thank you, Senator Noland, for your help. This is an important piece of legislation that addresses the truancy issue in Illinois. This comes from Rockford, but it's an issue that is affecting a large number of districts, especially those that are more urban districts. There are three components with this piece of legislation. The first is that it moves up the date for truancy hearings from not less than thirty days to not less than seven days. The second portion of it is, it amends the parent responsibility act and it raises that age from ages ten to -- to age thirteen in which the parents would be involved in this process. The third is, it allows school districts to share information with municipalities in dealing with truancy. It does have language in there, written by the federal Department of Education, that addresses the FERPA issues that were raised in -- in the past. So, I know of no opposition and would be happy to answer any questions that anyone might have.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

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This -- this is final action. The question is, shall the Senate concur in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2743. Those in favor will vote Aye. Opposed, Nay. The voting is open. Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Have all voted who wish? Take the record. On that question, there are 57 Yeas, none voting Nay, none voting Present. And the Senate concurs in House Amendment No. 1 to Senate Bill 2743. And the bill, having received the required constitutional majority, is declared passed. Senator Hunter, on 2860. Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senate Resolution 923, offered by Senator Lightford.
It is substantive, Madam President.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

There will be a Rules Committee meeting immediately in the President's Antechamber. Rules Committee meeting immediately.
(Senate stands at ease) Madam Secretary, Committee Reports.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senator Hendon, Chairman of the Committee on Rules, reports the following Legislative Measures have been assigned: Refer to Education Committee - Senate Joint Resolution 109 and Senate Resolution 923.

Senator Rickey Hendon, Chairman. November 13th, 2008.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Senator DeLeo, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR DeLEO:

Thank you very much, Madam President. If I could have all the Members' attention. Ask staff to kind of go back to the rear of the Chamber. Madam President, I've heard, through the

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course of this afternoon, many accolades to you as getting recently elected to the congressional district in your area. And I -- and -- and I know -- I know that the timetable for the United States Congress and the new members' class is coming up for you. And I know that you'll be spending December -- a few -- couple weeks in -- in December getting your new digs put together, as they say. And I just wanted to take this time -- and I -- and I don't know if this will be the last time that we see you presiding over this Chamber. I wanted to tell you that I enjoyed our relationship working together, having an office together, sharing good times, bad times, political times, election times, voting times, and all the years together. I want you to know that it's been a privilege to work with you all these years and I was very impressed of your work ethic. And I watch -- and I watched the campaign from afar and I watched your wonderful commercials on Channel 7 and seeing that beautiful granddaughter of yours in -- in the commercial. But, also, I know Debbie Halvorson as a worker. And I know Debbie Halvorson as a leader and the work that -- the work ethic that I saw you do over the past decade here in Springfield. I want you to know that I'm -- you're going to be sorely missed as a colleague and as a friend. So, having said that, we will miss you. Thank you very much for letting me be your friend all these years.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Senator DeLeo. Senator Crotty, for what purpose do you rise? I think I'm in trouble again.

SENATOR CROTTY:

I, too, want to congratulate you publicly for the great campaign that you ran. And I -- really watching you go through

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this last campaign to go to Washington, I started thinking about 1995, when the two of us ran together for the first time for the office here in Springfield. And I knew then that with your hard work and determination that you would evolve into a leader here in Springfield - and you did - and now I look forward to calling a friend up when they're down in Washington. We've shared a lot of things. But I think the -- the thing that the two of us shared that we really enjoyed the most is our grandmother stories, as the two of us became grandparents together. So, not only do I wish you the best, but a former constituent of mine that you happened to marry, Jim Bush, up in the gallery, with his support. And you know that - it takes -- it takes a lot of support from home. And I just want to wish you the very, very best. And keep in touch.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you. Thank you, Senator Crotty. Senator Martinez.

SENATOR MARTINEZ:

Thank you, Madam President. And I, too, stand -- rise here today to just say thank you, thank you for your friendship, thank you for all you did from the time many of us came in, the freshmen that came in that year, the women. You really made us feel comfortable and really showed us the ropes. And thank you for giving me your friendship during my first year in leadership. It was tough, but, you know, you kept me going. And I just want to say thank you. Thank you for being my friend. I know you're going to do great things in Congress. And I don't think Congress is going to ever be the same from the time you get there. So, congratulations, and we will miss you tremendously down here in Springfield.

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PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Senator Martinez. Senator Harmon.

SENATOR HARMON:

Thank you, Madam President. I want to join the chorus of folks wishing you well and congratulating you. And I also want to thank you for your devotion to the institution of the Senate, and in particular for your attention to new Members. I know I first got to know you when I was still a candidate for office, when there were others in the Chamber who had different ideas about who should be sitting in this seat. But you took me by -- by the arm and you said, "You're the guy that I'm going to help." And you -- you've never waivered in that. And I know I speak on behalf of so many Members who've joined the Senate while you were here, who you wrapped your arms around and said, "I'm going to help you navigate this place." We all owe you a debt of gratitude and, indeed, the entire Senate does. Thank you, Senator. Go get 'em in Washington.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR HALVORSON)

Thank you, Senator Harmon. I'm going to put Senator Martinez in the Chair.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Hunter, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR HUNTER:

Thank you, Madam President. I can't look at you now, Debbie. You're back there. My goodness. I'd just like to congratulate you on your -- on your recent election. That's just another woman added to Congress now. We lose one here, but hopefully your replacement is another woman. But, you know, this world really cannot operate without women, especially in --

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in various chambers of -- of legislative offices. And, Debbie, I just wanted to thank you very much for mentoring me, for looking out with -- for me, giving me information when I needed it - and even when I didn't need it, you still gave it to me, you know. And I just look forward to working with you. I wish you the best of luck and -- and much success. And -- and God bless you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Garrett, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR GARRETT:

To chime in with everybody else and thank the new congresswoman, Debbie Halvorson, for all the work she did for us in -- in the Senate. And to say that I think she's really -- not only was she a star here, but she's certainly going to be a star in Washington, D.C. And -- and just personally, there was one time when I was working on a project and, you know, the doors were closed, I was hitting brick walls. And I called Debbie up - and it was a major Metra transportation project in - - in my district - and without skipping a beat, she said, "You know what? I'll make this happen for you." And she did. It was one of the best projects we ever got. So, thank you from the bottom of my heart. And I wish you only the best in Washington.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Lightford.

SENATOR LIGHTFORD:

Absolutely. I'm sorry that you're looking at my back, seatmate, but I just want to thank you so much for befriending me ten years ago when I first arrived here. Debbie and I were

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seatmates. We sat next to one another for my first six years. And so, I've watched Debbie go through school. Debbie, you often interviewed me for your different courses, and I felt like I was a student right along with you. And just watching your children grow to be just great adults, and becoming a mother and grandmother. It's like so great to know that you just raised your children so well. And so, I just want to congratulate you and let you know personally that I'm proud of you. I'm proud of your achievements. I feel like we've created a sisterhood here. And I'll be rooting for you like nothing on your inauguration day. And I guess it's so exciting that you're joining our President, President Obama, considering we all served here together. So, I personally love you. And I love Jim and Em {sic} and the whole family. And when I was just in L.A. this summer, I spoke with Matt, I spoke with your son, and -- and he kind of gave me the lay of the land of L.A. And so I'm just really wishing you well. God bless you. And I know you're going to knock 'em dead. But promise me you'll spike your hair back, because that's who you are - you have a lot of spunk.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Holmes, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR HOLMES:

I would like to echo all the accolades for Congresswoman-elect. When I decided to run for the Senate a couple years ago, I remember Debbie coming to me and telling me that the only way to be elected was to be out there talking to people and to walk. So I certainly followed her lead in that. And she was also the one person who gave me her cell phone number and she said, "Here, use this anytime day or night. I know what you're going

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through." And I just want to say thank you so much, because that was invaluable. Also, you taking my panicked calls while I was running that first time. This time when we ran, it was wonderful in my district to have part of your congressional district, so we were at events together and we were able to work together. My first term here in the Senate, we also had these morning meetings on the second day of Session, where Debbie was like, "You can come in at 7:30, we'll sit down, we'll have coffee, you can ask any stupid question you want to ask without anybody else knowing you're asking it." And I thank you for those mornings and I thank you for answering all those stupid, silly questions so nobody else needed to know that I was asking them. But I just want to say, you have been absolutely fantastic. Could not have imagined doing this my first term without having you as a mentor and somebody to turn to. So, thank you. I am so proud of what you've done. You're going to be absolutely fantastic in Congress.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Okay. Senator Cullerton.

SENATOR CULLERTON:

Thank you. I thought it was just women that were going to be able to talk, so I appreciate it. Thank you very much. Debbie, congratulations on a great job in getting elected. We're very happy for you. And when I think back, about the possibility of you leaving now, I -- I -- I have memories, fond memories of times together. And the fondest one, though - uh-oh, you're cringing - one night we had dinner at a State Police headquarters and we each had a full bottle of wine, and then we took a test, which you did not pass, which was called a

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Breathalyzer, and it was the night before we voted on .08. Secretary of State George Ryan arranged for it. And that was a lot of fun. We -- we had people drive us home. And we ended up voting for it the -- the next day. But I know that you're going to do a fantastic job in Congress. And I also know that you're not going to forget us. You're going to be just as interested as you have been in all of the issues that we've dealt with. I know, for example, in a few short years, we're going to be dealing with things like redistricting, and I know that you're going to show an interest in what we do down here in Springfield. And we look forward to working with you then. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Link.

SENATOR LINK:

Thank you, Madam President. Well, this is kind of emotional for me, because I'm the last of the Class of '96 of the Democrats that came in. The other two kind of succeeded pretty much. One became President of the United States and one is a congressman. And I'm still here. I mean that's saying something, but, you know, I -- I knew I'd outlast 'em. But -- and they told me I wasn't even supposed to be here the first time. But, anyway, Deb, you know, lot of things happen. When we came in, in '97, we basically didn't even know where we were, and we started out in the minority. And I was thinking the other day of -- reflecting about Barack and about you, and the different things that we did. One of the stories I talked about was the night we went and -- to the Library to listen to Barack read his autobiography. And it's the first time I ever listened

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to a thirty-some-year-old guy have an autobiography. But we -- we were foolish enough to be one of the few people to go over there and listen to it, because we had nothing else to do because no one cared about us. When you were -- when you're in the minority and you come in as freshmen, no one really cares about you. So, for all the new freshmen that came in in the majority, trust us, we know what we're talking about, what life was like back then. But we got a certain bond between the three of us that we had, and that -- you know, it's a special time that people don't understand when you come in together, you serve in the minority, and then you achieve, through hard work, to get into the majority. And it took a lot of effort through what you did. And I got to say, you know, that the same feeling that I had when Barack left for the U.S. Senate, that I was losing a friend here, but I felt a lot better that I had that friend in Washington, and I echo those same statements here with you - that I'm losing a dear friend in Springfield, but we're gaining a great friend in Washington, D.C. But the only conclusion that I have on this, though, is - and this is for you too, Jim - at least we got a White Sox fan in the Presidency and only a Cub fan in Congress. So, with the best of luck and Godspeed with you, I wish you nothing but the best in your many years in Congress.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Sullivan.

SENATOR SULLIVAN:

Thank you, Madam President. Too want to echo the -- I guess the joy, but also the sadness of our colleagues to see Senator Halvorson leaving this Body. I know many of us, myself

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personally, inspired by -- by Debbie and her actions here in Springfield, but many people inspired by her -- how hard she worked to achieve the Office of State Senator when she first ran. And -- and many of us inspired by how hard she has worked here in Springfield as a State Senator and many of us inspired by how hard she worked to leave this Body. Why is that? That concerns me. No, it doesn't concern me at all. I'll tell you what, we're inspired by how hard she worked because she wanted to -- to further her desires and her -- her needs to reform in - - in -- not just in Springfield, but now in Washington, D.C. Debbie, you've been a -- a tremendous friend, a great colleague. I just want to thank you for your friendship and look forward to coming to Washington to visit you there as well.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Hendon.

SENATOR HENDON:

Thank you, Madam President. As your seatmate for the last -- Lord knows how long, I just had to come back down, instead of leaving the building -- you know, bid you adieu and just let you know we love you. It's been great. I was a little concerned when I saw your opponent's TV commercials, you know. But when the Tribune and the Sun-Times did not endorse you, I knew you were over the top. So, good luck and Godspeed.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Munoz.

SENATOR MUNOZ:

Thank you, Madam President. I just want to say congratulations, Senator Halvorson. When I was -- came in as a freshman too, with Kimmie, you took care of us and tried to help

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us out in any way, so -- and over the years, we became friends. Got to know your husband - very good man. I have never been to the U.S. House of Congress, so maybe I'll get an invitation, and it'd be an honor to come and see Congressman Halvorson. God bless you and I wish you all the best.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Wilhelmi.

SENATOR WILHELMI:

Thank you, Madam President and Ladies and Gentlemen. I'm going to be very brief, but I'm going to be very sincere in saying that, Debbie, I am so proud of you. I watched you in Will County. And I saw how hard you worked as a State Senator, and now as a congresswoman-elect. And let me tell you, Ladies and Gentlemen, I think everyone in this Chamber knows that when Debbie started on this journey, this was one of the toughest races in the country, one of the top congressional races in the country. This was going to be toe-to-toe. And Debbie was in the fight of her political life. And you know what? She worked her tail off. She talked to people, like she's talked to all of us in this room and the people she represents in her State Senate district. She worked extremely hard and she beat her opponent 58 to 34, an opponent who is a multimillionaire, who spent a ton of money of his own. A woman who brought her passion, her zeal, her political and policy expertise to a race and made that race not even close. They bailed out a month ago, Ladies and Gentlemen. I was there. I saw it. I watched it. And it was a thing of beauty. Because the person who won that election was the person who deserves that congressional seat - because of her passion, her zeal, her compassion, bringing that

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great vision and energy to Washington that she's brought to Springfield and to her State Senate district. I am so proud to stand here and say that my future congresswoman is Debbie Halvorson. Thank you for having my back these four years. I love you. Jim, you're the man. And God bless you as you move to -- to Washington and you continue your great work for the people of your new district. I love you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Meeks.

SENATOR MEEKS:

Well -- well, nobody wants to hear the nineteenth speaker. Congratulations. Thank God that this is not a death resolution and you wouldn't hear it. Jim would be listening to us say good things about you. I have on the phone Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr., and he said he's excited about you coming to Washington so that you all can work on the third airport.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Maloney.

SENATOR MALONEY:

Thank you, Madam President. I -- I, too, will be very brief. You know, what -- part -- Debbie was part of our orientation process when our class first came here, and one of the things she mentioned publicly and privately, that if we had any questions to come and see her. Little did she know that I would drive her absolutely crazy with my questions. But she was always accessible. When she became the Majority Leader, she was very -- always very, very accessible. As her role and importance grew, she continued to be herself. And I think that was what's behind the success of her campaign. If you saw any

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of her commercials, she was just out there being herself. So, her success hasn't changed her. The fact that she's grown in importance hasn't changed her. And if you continue being yourself, I know you're going to be a successful congresswoman. Thanks very much for all you've done.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Schoenberg.

SENATOR SCHOENBERG:

Thank you, Madam President. I was a House Member when Debbie Halvorson was the giant killer in 1996. And the enduring image that I'll always have of Debbie is someone of tenacity with a twinkle in her eye, that she -- she could embrace you and she could beat you all with the same warm, gracious, welcoming look on her face. And I vividly remember, most recently, during the candidate recruitment process, my own congresswoman and officemate, Jan Schakowsky, was assigned the task of gently encouraging you along to take this exciting and successful journey, and if ever there were two tenacious women who met their matches, it was when Jan and Debbie got together. And I know that Jan will continue to be a mentor to you in Congress and show you down a successful path as you've ventured while you've been here. You know, during Debbie's career here at the Capitol, if there's been one hallmark, it's been that working men and women know that on the bread-and-butter issues, which provide them with economic security, that they've had a tireless champion in -- in Debbie Halvorson. And during this time, when we're also feeling so vulnerable because of the declining economic condition, people look to individuals like Debbie Halvorson, look to leaders like Debbie even more, to provide

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them not just with reassurance, but with solutions to these seemingly intractable problems. Jim, you are now the bowling-trophy husband. But it's a -- but it's a role that I know you'll embrace, because we all share in the pride of Debbie's accomplishment and look for great things from Debbie in the halls of the U.S. House. Thank you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Frerichs.

SENATOR FRERICHS:

I'll be brief as well. Senator Halvorson has been a friend of mine for awhile. She's been a great mentor. I just want to say thank you. A lot of people here are saying what a shame it is that we're not going to see you anymore. As -- there was discussion earlier about grandchildren, and discussion earlier today about a new child in my life. I'm looking forward to seeing Senator Halvorson for years to come, as my daughter and her granddaughter become friends and play together. So, thank you, Debbie.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Kotowski.

SENATOR KOTOWSKI:

You know, I'm not going to be brief. No, I'm just kidding. Thank you, Madam Chair and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I just want to -- just a -- a comment about you as a person. I think it says a lot about you, the fact that you reached back to try and help so many people. What a tremendous legacy to have given that, and to have been freshmen Senators and to go into your office and to be able to ask you questions and, like so many people said, to not feel, you know, stupid 'cause you can on so

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many occasions. And I remember you giving me a book. It said, Don't Sweat the Small Stuff. And I'd like to say I applied all the lessons in it, but I'm trying my best. And I think a quote from It's a Wonderful Life is appropriate. It says, you know, "No" -- "No person is a failure who has friends." You're an absolute winner because of your friendships and your relationships. God bless you and good luck.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Radogno.

SENATOR RADOGNO:

Thank you. Well, Senator Halvorson, lest you think that all these well wishes are not bipartisan, I am here to tell you that that is not true. We all wish you well - everyone on this side. You and I came in in '96 together, both after getting through a brutal, horrible, difficult race. We were both targeted, both in the same area. You know, we sat together at orientation. We both had school-aged kids and sort of bandaged that with being here in the Senate. So we've been through a lot together. But unlike many of you, I will have the distinct honor of continuing to work with Senator Halvorson, because the 11th Congressional District overlaps my Senate district. So I look forward to continuing to see a lot of you and continuing to work with you. And -- and I wish you nothing but the best, as does every Member on this side of the aisle.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Rutherford.

SENATOR RUTHERFORD:

Thank you, Madam President. Senator Halvorson, the 11th Congressional District encompasses a part of my Senate district.

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Your predecessor Jerry Weller was my seatmate in the Illinois House. And when Jerry Weller dumped a bag of greasy, salty popcorn on my desk, on the wooden desk of the Senate, I vowed to do everything humanly possible to get him to Washington, D.C. Now, you may wonder, are there those that had their moments, their popcorn epiphany with the Rules Committee Chairperson? Or you may wonder, were those out there passionate about getting you to Washington, D.C., for other reasons? I will tell you, Deb, I have enjoyed working with you. And you and I have been admirable sparring partners on issues and we've been, what I think are, credible teammates in many. As you go to the nation's capitol - and our districts will be abutting each other, and there will be issues that will be important on the national level and within our local area - I want you to know that in a bipartisan fashion that we've enjoyed, we will continue to spar on those we don't agree, but we'll be very strong and tough partners on those that we do. Deb, I do congratulate you. Jim, I look forward to seeing you as we watch your wife go on to the halls of the United States Congress. And look forward to working with you, Congresswoman Halvorson.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

And finally, our Senate President, Emil Jones.

SENATOR E. JONES:

Yeah. Thank -- thank you, Madam President. I, too, would like to add to all the great remarks made to -- about our Majority Leader as she leaves this Chamber to go to Washington as the congresswoman from the 11th District. The first day I laid eyes on her, I knew she was a winner. That was at the Hilton Hotel here in Springfield. And I said, "Debbie

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Halvorson, why don't you come see me tomorrow? You look like a Senator." And she refused to come. But I told staff, "Go get her. Find her." And when she finally met, she said, "Running for the Senate?" I said, "You are a winner." Of course, she ran; she won so big and huge. And that was a very interesting campaign, Terry, back in 1996. And I recall, I get a call from Debbie, crying about the staff on the campaign. And I told Debbie, "Don't worry about the staff. Your greatest asset is meeting people. Stay out of the campaign office and just talk to people." And she did. After she won the election, she said to me, "Is that guy Dan Shoman going to still be around? 'Cause I want him to work for me." But Debbie and I have been friends all those years, except when she made a mistake and she -- she told me about Jim Bush, whom I know. And I told her, "Well, you can't change your name to Bush." So, I was a witness at her wedding. And that was the agreement - she'd keep the name Halvorson, don't change it to Bush. You're a great guy, Jim Bush. But -- but I want to thank our Majority Leader for all her hard work and working with the new Members, the freshmen. And -- and she came to me. She said, "These freshmen, they're talking all this stuff they don't know." She said, "I'm going to have a meeting of the freshmen legislators to help educate them on the process. I'll take some of the heat off you." And she did a remarkable job. So, I want to thank you, Debbie, for doing such. And sometimes they jump on her about me. But I appreciate her loyalty. I -- I appreciate her tenacity. And I appreciate her sincerity and doing a great, great job. They tell me Washington is wonderful, Debbie. And -- I'm not going to say that, John. So, as you leave us - 'cause I'll be leaving

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too; we're leaving together - as you leave us, we wish you well, look forward to seeing you in Washington. And good luck and God bless you and the children. My son will be replacing me. But one thing my son remembered back in 1996, he was out there in Chicago Heights walking precincts with Debbie Halvorson to help her win that election. So that experience enabled him to come here, 'cause he said he was going to run against me, so I decided I'd better get out of here. Good luck, Debbie. God bless you.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Congratulations, Senator Halvorson. And now Congresswoman-elect Halvorson, would you like to say a few words?

SENATOR HALVORSON:

It's very seldom you find an opportunity to be able to say thank you to so many wonderful friends. And, you know, John Cullerton always talks about the different ways you leave this Chamber, and I'm just very blessed that I probably have the best way. And I -- I always think about how surreal this has been, because this has become my family. And I think each and every one of you say the same thing, that our colleagues - Democrats and Republicans alike - are our best friends. And we may disagree, but that's the fun part about this place. If everybody agreed on everything, why would we even be here? We all -- yeah, you'd be in the House. You... Here, at least, we bring what's in the best interest of our constituents here to the Senate. But when we leave here, it's -- I'm happy to say that that's put aside, and that we can go out and discuss what's important to all of us. And it is true, we talk about our kids and our grandkids. And, you know, all I'm going to say is, I

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may be leaving this Chamber, but I'm not leaving, because I'm very fortunate to be able to leave the Senate to go to Congress, but to be here for you. And -- and like I've told my colleagues, as emotional as this can be, I never forget my friends and I'm not really leaving, and I can't wait to work with all my colleagues. And it doesn't matter if your districts fall within the 11th Congressional District - I'm here for everybody. And borders don't mean anything. When you work, whether it's for the Senate or for Congress, we work for the people. And I'm blessed to be able to work for the people not only in the 11th or the State of Illinois, but the entire country. So, I am so blessed to be able to leave a Chamber with so many wonderful friends and I can't wait to be there with our President-elect Barack Obama. And don't worry, Terry, there'll be something for you someday. And it is true, Chris Radogno and all of us who came in - and Larry Bomke - all in '96. There is so much we need to do, though. And every day you get up, I just hope you have that same opportunity as I did, to do for others all day long, because that's what we have, that's what we're put on this earth to do. It's our gifts. You wouldn't go through what you go through every day to not to have your gift. So, I love you all very, very much. And I know we're going to have a wonderful, long relationship. I'm going to always be there for you. I'm just going to be there in a different spot. You'll all know how to get ahold of me. And I know that I'll be needing you in a couple years, four years, when you start deciding where those districts are. So, thank you all so much. I -- I am just so in awe about I -- I have no idea and I hope to see you soon. And thank you all for all your confidence in me

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and I look forward to working with you all soon. Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Thank you. Thank you. We will now proceed to the Order of Resolution Consent Calendar. With the leave of the Body, all those resolutions read in today will be added to the Consent Calendar. Madam Secretary, have there been any objections filed to any resolutions on the Consent Calendar?

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

No additions -- no additions or changes filed.

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Is there any discussion? If not, the question is, shall the resolutions on the Consent Calendar be adopted. All those in favor will say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it, and the motion carries. And the resolutions are adopted. Madam Secretary, Resolutions.

SECRETARY SHIPLEY:

Senate Joint Resolution 110, offered by Senator Halvorson.

(Secretary reads SJR No. 110)

PRESIDING OFFICER: (SENATOR MARTINEZ)

Senator Halvorson moves to suspend the rules for the purpose of the immediate consideration and adoption of Senate Joint Resolution 110. All in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it and the rules are suspended. Senator Halvorson now moves the adoption of Senate Joint Resolution 110. All in favor, say Aye. Opposed, Nay. The Ayes have it. And Senate Joint Resolution 110 is adopted. Pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 110, the Senate stands adjourned until Wednesday, November 19, 2008, at 12 o'clock noon. The Senate stands

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adjourned.